

Francisco Surface Mine Reclamation Field Day 2005

Sponsored by the Indiana Soils/Prime Farmland
Team and Black Beauty Coal Company.

Field Day Goals

- **The Francisco Mine Field Day provided information on cutting edge reclamation technology.**
- **The focus of the field day was for all those directly associated with agricultural production on surface coal mined and reclaimed lands including our Mining Peers and local Farmers.**

Field Day Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Registration and Safety Training
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions - DNR Representative
- 9:15 a.m. Brief Discussion of the Permitting Process. Discuss soil survey maps, target yields, land uses and bond release standards.
- 9:30 a.m. The first stop will be at the Francisco Underground Mining Portal. A Black Beauty representative will give a brief overview of the facility and its operation.
- 10:15 a.m. Tour of the Active Pit - At these stops the group will observe the coal extraction process. Observe and discuss the truck/shovel method of topsoil and subsoil (rooting medium) removal.
- 11:00 a.m. Reclaimed Area behind the Active Pit - At this stop the group will observe the replacement of topsoil and subsoil (rooting medium). This stop will include land leveling and mulching and crimping demonstrations by Loudermilk Contracting. Cornelius Farms will conduct a deep ripping demonstration (weather permitting).

Field Day Schedule (continued)

- 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. **LUNCH** - Lunch was catered by Sander's Catering of Celestine, IN. Lunch includes pork chop, scalloped potatoes, combination salad, green beans, corn, roll and drink.
- 12:45 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Herbicide use for Cover Crop Management on Reclaimed Lands. Purdue Extension.
- **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
- 1:15 to 2:45 p.m. At this stop Bob Dunker, University of Illinois agronomist, will discuss current research relating to Prime Farmland Restoration. The group will be able to view soil pits. Also at this stop Ramona Briggeman, a Wildlife Biologist from the DNR, will discuss the implementation of the Fish and Wildlife land use on mined lands.
- **OR (for those using session for private pesticide applicator training)**
- 1:15 to 1:45 p.m. Atrazine Use and Surface Water Concerns
- 1:45 to 2:45 p.m. Where are we with Soybean Rust?
- 2:45 p.m. Wrap up and Summary
- 3:00 p.m. Departure

Registration



Registration began at 8:30 am June 30, 2005 at Francisco Mine

Meeting The Guests



Welcome and Safety Training



Bruce Stevens from DNR welcomes over 90 guests.

Welcome and Safety Training



Kent Holcomb the Francisco Mine Superintendent welcomed guests to the mine. He also presented an overview of the mine history and conducted safety training.

Mine Tour – Francisco Underground Mine



Mine Tour – Surface Mine Active Pit



Reclamation Demonstrations



Deep Ripping Prime Farmland



Land Leveling Prime Farmland

Reclamation Demonstration



Local farmer viewing Ripping of Prime Farmland



Black Beauty Employee Tim Hampton explains Reclamation Techniques

Lunch



Presentations

Mark Evans - Purdue Extension presents Herbicide use for Cover Crop Management on Reclaimed Lands.



Presentations

Bob Dunker, University of Illinois agronomist, discussed current research relating to Prime Farmland Restoration.



Presentations



Bob Dunker demonstrates a penetrometer under development at the University of IL

Presentations

Ramona Briggeman, a Wildlife Biologist from the DNR, discussed the implementation of the Fish and Wildlife land use on mined lands.



Presentations

**Ken Rogers -
Peabody Energy
discussed the
American Chestnut
Foundation and the
planting of Hybrid
Chestnuts at
Francisco Mine.**

